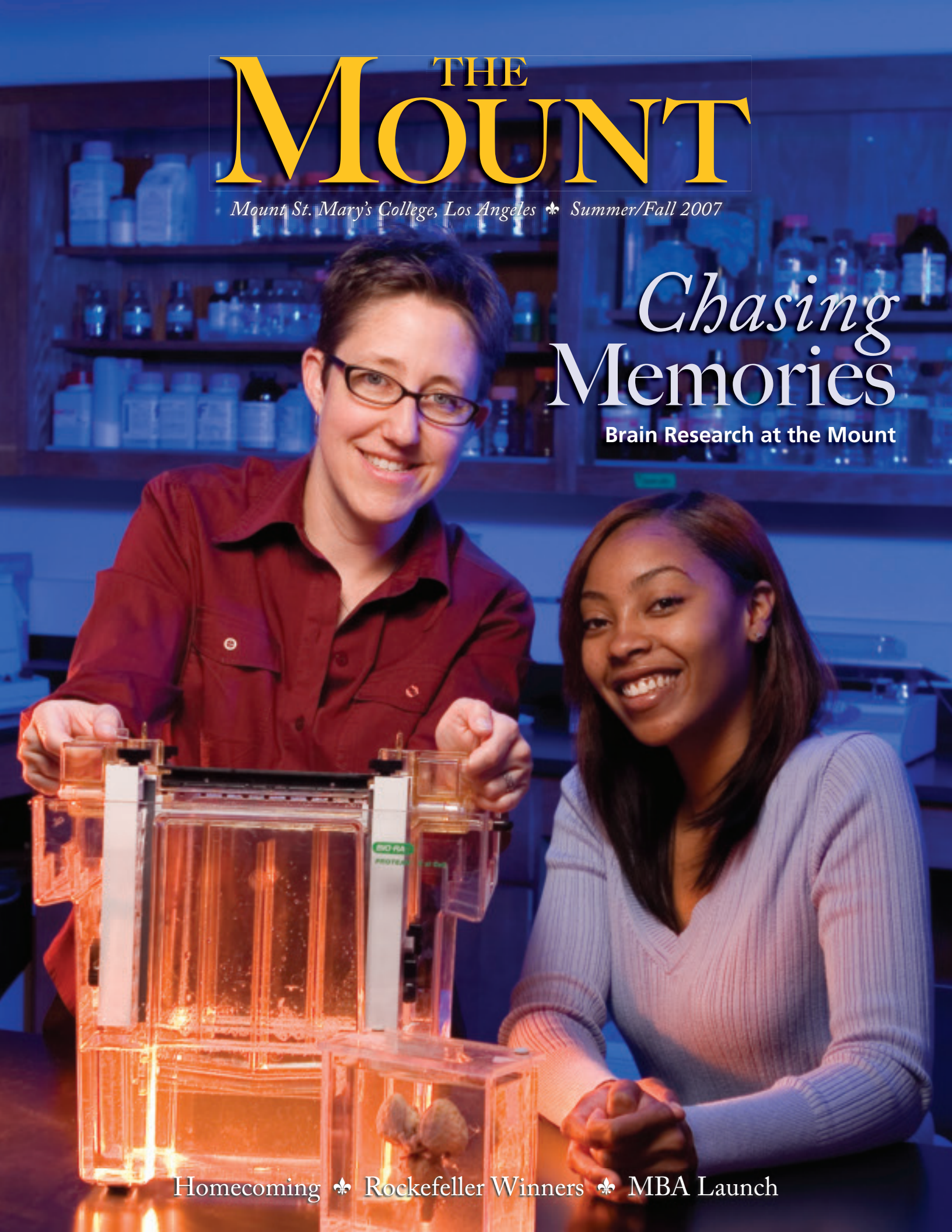

THE MOUNT

Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles ⚜ *Summer/Fall 2007*

Chasing Memories

Brain Research at the Mount

Homecoming ⚜ Rockefeller Winners ⚜ MBA Launch

from the president

Dear Reader,

This has been a year of blessings, successes, and milestones for the Mount. Let me count the ways.

⚜ We celebrated our 2007 graduates at a commencement ceremony on May 14 at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif. We welcomed them all into the family of Mount alums. (For more information, see the story on page 3.)

⚜ The College plans to launch its seventh graduate program—a master's in business administration in the fall of 2008. Students will move through the new MBA program as a cohort in a convenient weekend timeframe. (See page 5.)

⚜ Two of our current students have been awarded the prestigious Rockefeller Brothers Fund 2007 Fellowships for Aspiring Teachers of Color. This brings our total number of winners to 28 deserving students—more than any other institution in the country. (See page 4.)

⚜ This year the nursing program is celebrating 55 years of excellence. The Mount was the first in the state to offer a baccalaureate degree in nursing in 1952. To celebrate—and increase nursing scholarships—our Regents Council will host "A Big Band Evening Under the Stars!" on September 29. This gala dinner and dance will honor the Nursing Department, and philanthropist and former LA Mayor Richard Riordan, a longtime friend of the Mount. Please join us. (See pages 3 and 17.)

⚜ The College is 82 years strong this year, and on Founder's Day, October 13, we are hosting our annual Homecoming for alums with the theme, "Mount Connections—Then and Now." This year's event will feature tours of new and upgraded facilities throughout our Chalon Campus. (See page 8.)

⚜ I am pleased to announce we are more than halfway toward meeting the $1 million Kresge Challenge. This "all or nothing" grant challenges all of us—from students and alums to faculty and staff—to raise $4 million by June 30, 2008. When we meet this goal, the foundation will award its $1 million to the College's *Invest in the Mount* campaign. Special kudos to the graduating Class of 2007 which raised more than $9,000 in its senior year for the Mount Fund. (See page 23.)

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support, well wishes, and involvement with the Mount. We simply could not do it without you.

With warm regards,

Jacqueline Powers Doud

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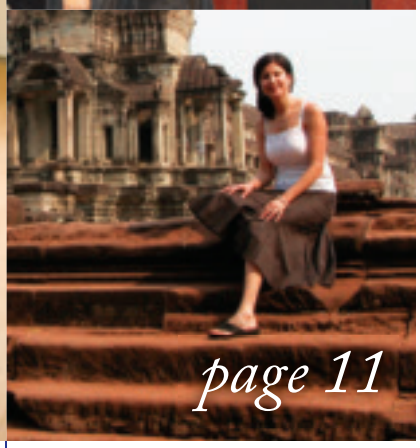

Chasing Memories

Faculty-student research aims to understand how the brain works.

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A Challenge to Lead

Mount students talk about what leadership means to them.

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Professor Jennifer Chotiner and Tiffany McGrew '07
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in the moment

A graduate quietly reads the program, minutes before walking the stage.

THE MOUNT

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MISSION STATEMENT
Mount St. Mary's College offers a dynamic learning experience in the liberal arts and sciences to a diverse student body. As a Catholic college primarily for women, we are dedicated to providing a superior education enhanced by an emphasis on building leadership skills and fostering a spirit to serve others. Our measure of success is graduates who are committed to using their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their environments, and the world.

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Congratulations, 2007 Mount Graduates

The Mount celebrated its graduates at commencement on May 14 at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif. The ceremony honored graduates of the College's associate, bachelor's, master's, doctorate, and certificate programs.

Commencement speaker Father Greg Boyle, SJ, founder and executive director of Jobs For A Future/Homeboy Industries, shared his experiences working with at-risk youth and urged graduates to value every life—to help each soul feel its worth. Boyle's organization includes an economic development program and employment referral services in Los Angeles' Boyle Heights community.

"Imagine a circle of compassion and imagine nobody standing outside that circle, and to that end your task as you go forth from this place is to stand with those on the margins and to stand with those whose dignity has been denied," said Boyle, who was awarded an honorary degree, doctor of humane letters. "Insist that nobody stands outside the circle of compassion." His speech was filmed by C-SPAN and aired on the Saturday night program "American Perspectives" in late May.

Boyle said developing a sense of kinship with everyone will help inspire peace in the world. "There is an idea that there just might be lives out there that matter less than other lives—and you choose to stand against that idea. Good for you," he said.

Another highlight of the commencement ceremonies was the presentation of the Carondelet Medals, the College's highest honor. This year's recipients were David McIntyre, a distinguished trustee and longtime friend of the College who passed away in January; and the Rev. Matthew S. Delaney, professor emeritus of mathematics, and former academic dean and chief academic officer at MSMC.

Delivering the College's baccalaureate class tribute was Christina Sundermeier '07, who earned her bachelor of arts in psychology with an emphasis in counseling and a minor in religious studies. Sundermeier plans to pursue a master's degree in theological studies.

Gala Fundraiser to Address Nursing Shortage

On September 29, 2007, Mount St. Mary's College and its Regents Council will host "A Big Band Evening Under the Stars!" to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Nursing Department and to raise funds for nursing student scholarships. The event will also honor philanthropist and former LA Mayor Richard Riordan, who has worked to raise awareness of California's current nursing shortage at the state level and has supported initiatives to increase the number of people entering the nursing profession.

The celebratory auction, dinner, and dance will take place at the College's downtown Doheny Campus. All proceeds will benefit the Mount's nursing scholarships. For more information, contact Heather Schraeder, director of special events, at 213.477.2761 or hschraeder@msmc.la.edu.

At press time, the College received a grant to start a new ADN-to-MSN Bridge Program. See related story on page 22.

from the faculty

Matthew Brossamer, assistant professor of English, authored two chapters, "The Consolation of Philosophy of Boethius" and "The Confessions of St. Augustine," for *Classical Literature and Its Times*, the eighth volume in the series *World Literature and Its Times*.

Deniz Cizmeciyan, associate professor of physical sciences and mathematics, published "^{2}H NMR and X-ray diffraction studies of methyl rotation in crystals of thomethyldibenzocycloalkanones" in *Solid State Nuclear Magnetic Resonance*.

Deborah Diaz, assistant professor of physical therapy, presented "Evidence Based Practice Faculty Development Workshop: Comparison of a two-day course to online programming" at the National Physical Therapy Conference in Boston in February 2007.

Monica Arellano (left) and Claudia Luz Barraza

Two Win Rockefeller Fellowships

Two future teachers studying at the Mount have been awarded prestigious Rockefeller Brothers Fund 2007 Fellowships for Aspiring Teachers of Color. Each year, only about 25 students across the nation are given fellowships. Founded in 1992, the goal of the fellowships is to increase the number of highly qualified teachers of color in K-12 public education in the United States.

MSMC child development major Monica Arellano and history major Claudia Luz Barraza, then juniors, were selected for their passionate commitment to teaching in urban schools.

MSMC was among 16 colleges and universities nationwide invited to offer candidates for the fellowship. Since 1992, 28 Mount students have been awarded fellowships—more than any other institution in the country.

Arellano and Barraza developed and implemented education-related summer projects and will present their projects at a workshop in Washington, D.C. They also will receive up to $22,100 in financial assistance to attend graduate school.

Arellano got her first glimpse at the difference she could make in her East Los Angeles neighborhood as the student body president at Garfield High School. She organized free, after-school tutoring for low-income children and got to know their families—her neighbors—better. "A teacher must be willing to make time to help children deal with whatever challenges they face," said Arellano, a middle child in a family of eight.

For Barraza, the message she got from the Boyle Heights neighborhood where she grew up was that college may not be for her. "I had to deal with the stereotype that I wasn't going to amount to anything because of where I was from," said Barraza, who now lives in Alhambra, Calif. "I want to give people the motivation to achieve their dreams." Barraza said she plans to teach history at San Gabriel's San Gabrielino High School, from which she graduated.

MA in Humanities Graduates First Class

The College celebrated the MA in Humanities Program's first class of 17 graduates in spring 2007. The program began in 2004 with 43 students and by last spring grew to 108 students in three concentrations: English, cultural studies, and history/political science.

The program grows again in fall 2007 with a creative writing concentration. Faculty in this new area include novelist and MSMC English professor Marcos M. Villatoro, and Kate Gale, a poet as well as founding editor and director of Red Hen Press.

MSMC Launches MBA Program

The Mount will launch a Master's in Business Administration Program beginning in fall 2008 in a weekend format for junior- and mid-level professionals seeking career advancement. Faculty member Janet Robinson has been selected to lead the program as its first director.

"This new graduate business program builds on the strengths of faculty in the Business Administration Department," said Provost Eleanor Siebert, "and will join the Mount's current six graduate degree programs designed to promote leadership and foster a spirit of service to others."

Aimed at attracting students in their 30s and 40s at a time when studies show an increasing demand for part-time MBA programs, the Mount's MBA program is believed to be the only one in the region offering all its class work on weekends only.

Each incoming class will form a cohort of 20 to 30 students, moving together through a richly integrated curriculum that will culminate in the MBA degree after 4 semesters (or 15 months) of advanced business courses. The cross-disciplinary courses will give students a big-picture view of how various theories and disciplines blend together in a real business environment.

The launch of the MBA program will bring the number of graduate programs at the Mount to seven.

Students Speak in Sacramento

Two Mount St. Mary's College students visited Sacramento in March to participate in Lobby Day, an annual event sponsored by the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU).

Speaking on behalf of their fellow Cal Grant students—and the College—were Karen Navarrete, a senior from Bell Gardens, Calif., and Isabelle Morales, a sophomore from Carson, Calif. While in the state capital, they met with Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Assemblyman Mike Davis, and Assemblyman Mike Fuer, as well as numerous education staff.

Isabelle Morales (left) and Karen Navarrete

The Mount was one of 17 colleges and universities that sent students to the capital to tell their personal stories and talk with legislators about the need for continuing and strengthening the Cal Grant program. In the independent college sector, the program serves many students who have been historically underrepresented in higher education. Both Cal Grant A and Cal Grant B awards are based on academic merit as well as financial need.

from the faculty

Robin Gordon, the College's director of secondary education, had her article "Making Use of Story to Teach Mathematics and Science" published in spring 2007 in *The Ladder,* an in-house publication for Los Angeles Unified School District.

Alan Lee, assistant professor of physical therapy, presented "Embracing a New Lifestyle After Gastric Bypass: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Post-operative Exercise Program in Acute Care Setting" at the National Physical Therapy Conference in Boston in February 2007.

Deborah Lowe, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, presented "Comparison of Two Types of Evidence Based Practice Faculty Development Workshops" at the National Physical Therapy Conference in Boston in February 2007.

from the faculty

Linda Moody, dean of graduate programs, published "Ethical Quandaries: When Scholarship IS Activism and Academic Freedom is Under Attack" in *Ethics and Activism* in spring 2007.

Marsha Sato, director of the Master of Science in Nursing Program, co-wrote a reflection piece on the Roy Adaptation Model discussing new assumptions for the 21st century. The article appears in *Nursing Science Quarterly*, Vol. 20, No. 1.

Wanda Teays, chair of the Department of Philosophy, participated as an expert at a two-day symposium in March at California State University, Fullerton, on "Confronting Torture: Perspectives and Moral Issues." Teays also authored "Detainees as Patients: Torture and Public Health" in *International Public Health Ethics*.

Mount Answers 'Invitation to Serve'

In March, Mount St. Mary's College hosted its first annual Invitation to Serve, a campus-wide event bringing students, faculty, staff, alums, and friends of the College together in a day of service. More than 50 volunteers partnered with St. Joseph Center in Santa Monica, the Midnight Mission in Los Angeles, and Million Trees LA to help make a difference in the community.

Roberta M. Allen '64 at the Midnight Mission

"Mount students regularly participate in service through the College's Office of Community Engagement and Office of Campus Ministry," said Bernadette Robert '77, assistant vice president of student affairs. "Rarely do they get the opportunity to work side-by-side with faculty, staff, and alums."

The volunteers were given a choice of three activities: painting the infant-toddler room at the center, serving lunch at the mission, or planting trees in the neighborhoods surrounding the Doheny Campus.

Mount St. Mary's College currently works with 35 high schools and 32 other community partners to serve people and communities across the greater Los Angeles area.

Richard C. Seaver, 85, Dies

At press time, the College was saddened to learn of the loss of Richard C. Seaver on June 10, 2007. The son of Frank Seaver (Chester Place resident and benefactor to the Mount), Richard Seaver was chairman of the Seaver Institute, from whom the Mount received $3.6 million for the *Invest in the Mount* campaign.

Students Get Inside Look at Congress

Mount junior Kathleen Castellanos traveled all around the world with her military family, but she was awed in March when she met women who had reached the highest levels of government in the United States.

"I'm so grateful the Mount offers this opportunity," said Castellanos, who spent her 2007 spring break in Washington, D.C., at the Public Leadership Education Network's (PLEN) Women and Congress Seminar, sponsored by the Women's College Coalition. "My dad always says he can see me in public service some day, so meeting the women in Congress was motivating and encouraging to me."

Castellanos and seven other Mount students joined peers from 16 other women's colleges across the country to meet with congressional representatives and observe firsthand how the federal government operates. For nearly two decades, the Mount's Women's Leadership Program has been sending young women with a particular interest in U.S. policy to the capital.

Farewell to Friend of College

The Mount community was saddened by the loss of Ken Skinner, executive vice president of the Fritz B. Burns Foundation and a valiant supporter of the College. Skinner passed away on April 30, 2007.

Skinner was well known for his personal commitment to the many causes championed by the Fritz B. Burns Foundation, including Mount St. Mary's College. "Ken Skinner was a long-time and loyal friend of the Mount," said President Jacqueline Powers Doud. "He was a gentleman in every respect, always straightforward, a man of impeccable integrity. We shall miss him but remain forever grateful for the way in which he and his wife, Joyce, participated in many College events and for Ken's faithful work for us through the Fritz B. Burns Foundation."

Over the years, the Fritz B. Burns Foundation has supported the College generously through student scholarships and capital campaign gifts. The foundation also endowed a faculty chair in education. Most recently, the College was the recipient of a $2.5 million gift towards the new Doheny Campus parking structure.

"Ken always knew where he stood," said Mike Enright, chair of the Board of Trustees. "He was straight as an arrow and didn't suffer fools. Underneath all this, was a very gentle and kind man."

A dedicated leader and community advocate, Skinner worked with the Fritz B. Burns Foundation for more than 50 years.

College Names New Regents

The College welcomed 17 new members to the Regents Council in May. Pictured above, standing (l to r): Richard Belardi, Angela M. Stern '81, Jim Belanic, Peggy Starr '64. Seated (l to r): Mickey Payne '64, Sharon Leahy '60, Georgia Belardi '55. Not pictured: Glen Banken, Sheila Banken '53, Marilyn Belanic '79, Barbara Brunner '63, Elaine Camuti '69, Leleka Doonquah '89, Jean Marie Moynier '62, Judy Page '61, Mary Lou Weidlich '62, and Judith Zaylor.

New Trustees Join Board

The Mount's Board of Trustees recently named two new members: Joan Otomo-Corgel and Maria Gutierrez Ott '70, '78M.

Otomo-Corgel is currently adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA School of Dentistry, Department of Periodontics; faculty and chair of research at the Greater Los Angeles VA Health Care Center Dental Service; and faculty at West LA City College's Dental Hygiene Department. In 1993, Otomo-Corgel was appointed by Gov. Pete Wilson to a seven-year term on the California State University Board of Trustees. She lectures extensively on a wide range of periodontal topics and has contributed to more than 50 journals and medical texts. Otomo-Corgel earned a doctorate in dental surgery and a master's in public health at UCLA.

Ott is currently the superintendent of the Rowland Unified School District. Prior to joining Rowland Unified, Ott served five years as the senior deputy superintendent in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Ott earned her bachelor's and master's in education at the Mount and completed her doctoral program at USC, majoring in educational policy, planning, and administration. In 2005, she was awarded the Outstanding Alumna Award for Professional Achievement by the Mount's Alumnae Association. (See page 10 to read about her most recent award from *La Opinión*.)

Homecoming 2007: Celebrate Mount Connections

On Saturday, October 13, 2007, come celebrate "Mount Connections—Then and Now." Homecoming and reunions offer the perfect opportunity to come home to the Mount, to remember good times and good friends, and to see what is happening at the College today.

The day will include:

- Workshops (for details, see right)
- Founders Day Mass celebrated by Rev. George O'Brien
- Reunions for the Classes of 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002, with a special commemoration for the members of the 25th Silver Anniversary Class of 1982
- Reception for business majors to celebrate the MBA program launch
- Receptions for Golden Grads, Weekend College, the Latina Alumnae network, and non-reunion alums
- Tours of newly renovated Brady Hall, upgraded dorms, the administration building, and science labs
- Music in the Circle
- Student Club "meet and greets"
- Gala dinner followed by presentation of the 2007 Outstanding Alumnae Awards and first-ever Rising Star Award

For information about Homecoming, call 213.477.2767 or go to www.msmcalums.la.edu/Homecoming2007.

Homecoming Workshops for One and All

The Evolving Role of Women

Presented by Dr. Patricia Ash, Chair of the History and Political Science Department—Among the areas considered are politics, business, culture, family relationships, gender roles and expectations, and the race/gender nexus.

Fun With Flavors

Presented by Francisco Alvarez, Executive Chef, Bon Appetit Catering—Learn hands on how the four components of a great recipe (sweet, sour, bitter and salt) can help you make something creative out of what you have in your cupboard. The workshop will also include shortcuts to a germ-free environment and the proper way to use "tools of the trade" like the pros.

Knaves or Knights: Who is in Your Family Tree?

Presented by Richard McKnight, Director of the Regional Family History Center—Genealogy can help you trace your family's roots. Learn from an expert how to begin your search, how to incorporate oral history into your search, and what the next steps are. You will also find out what tools you will need and how to access them.

African Drumming and Rhythmic Dance

Presented by Kimberly Pagget Willis, Choreographer and Artistic Director of Izibonga Dance Company—Immerse yourself in West African dance and drumming as you move to traditional drum rhythms from Guinea, Nigeria, and Senegal. You will learn the historical elements of West African dance techniques, ceremonial meanings, and songs.

***Kindred* by Octavia Butler: A Book Discussion**

Presented by Scott Bryson, Associate Professor, English Department—We are thrilled to have Scott back with us again. If you like books that keep you guessing and make you think, then go get Octavia Butler's *Kindred*, a fast-paced page-turner with a deep historical awareness. Read it and come discuss it with us. We'll all bring our thoughts and questions.

Personal Finance: Steps to Financial Freedom

Presented by Jim Kelly, Adjunct Faculty MSMC Business Department—Learn how the Internet can help you manage key areas of budgeting, saving, investing, security and identity theft, credit scores, and more.

in brief

A Winning Equation
The Doheny Campus played host to more than 230 middle-school girls and 60 adults at the Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics Career Conference in March. Mount faculty and staff helped lead numerous workshops for the girls and their parents. The conference aims to increase girls' interest in math and science—and help expand their future career options. This 28th annual event was sponsored by Math/Science Interchange, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting science and math education for girls.

Taxing Relief
Business students from the Mount offered free tax preparation services last March and April for elderly and low-income residents near the Doheny Campus. The students, who are certified volunteers under the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, all take a VITA course at the College as part of their business studies. The tax assistance—offered in English and Spanish—was sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service.

Growing a Legacy
There's a new tradition at the Doheny Campus—the Legacy Project. Through the inspiration and leadership of sophomore ASB Senator Ashlee Enriquez (pictured), associate of arts graduates in the Class of 2007 were the first to take part in the new project by leaving a special gift to the College. This year's gift was a Strawberry Snowball Dombeya tree, which was planted in May on the west lawn of the Doheny Mansion.

Jeopardy! Champion for a Day
Mount alumna Kate Hartsfield Zimmermann '99 spent one day in April as Jeopardy! game show champion. Zimmermann, a political

science grad who is now a deputy district attorney in Kern (Calif.) County, was named Jeopardy! winner with $4,100 after her first night on the show. The returning champ finished the next night in second place with $8,500. She took home $2,000 for her second-place showing, as only first-place contestants keep their winnings.

Top-Notch Theses
This last academic year, three graduates completed a Senior Honors Thesis, a major research project which examines a topic from the perspectives of two disciplines. Congratulations to Ammee Amboya for "Women and Science: Biological Possibility and Pioneers at Mount St. Mary's College," Jenny Park for "Redemption Through Christ: A Symbolic Look at Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood*," and Sue-Ellen Quan for "Our Dwindling Youth."

FUN FACTS

24
bachelor of arts majors

8
associate in arts majors

6
bachelor of science majors

6
master's programs

4
nursing programs

1
doctoral program

Sociologists Are Us
Three Mount sociology students presented research in June at a National Women's Studies Association conference in Chicago titled Past Debates, Present Possibilities, Future Feminisms. The students were Kristen Lee, a documentary film and social justice major who presented "An Ethnographic Study of Contemporary Dating in Los Angeles;" Aida Martinez, a sociology major who presented "Women's Advocacy and Educational Equity in the Caribbean: An Undergraduate Research Experience;" and Sue Quan, a sociology major who presented "Anorexia Nervosa and the Psychological Development of Young Females."

A Legal Future
MSMC's chapter of the Phi Alpha Delta pre-law society hosted attorneys from major law firms in the spring for a discussion on law school, daily life as a lawyer, and career options students can pursue with a law degree.

Sign of the Times
This winter, visitors to the Chalon Campus were greeted by a new entrance sign. Here's a look at the Mount's very first sign (1932) and the latest:

CSJ Jubilarians Celebrate
The Mount congratulates the following sisters on their jubilee anniversaries: Sr. Barbara Cotton, Sr. Mary Flanagan, Sr. Roseagnes Haskins, Sr. Marylouis Markel '48, and Sr. Patricia Zins for 60 years, and Sr. Mona Castelazo '61, Sr. Imelda D'Agostino '58, Sr. Carroll Laubacher, Sr. Mary Murphy '60, Sr. Margaret Mary Murray '61, and Sr. Helen Vincent Oswald '56 for 50 years.

***La Opinión* Honors Alumna**
Trustee Maria Gutierrez Ott '70, '78M, was honored with *La Opinión*'s Mujeres Destacadas Award for her work as an education advocate. Her distinguished career exemplifies a commitment to improving education in Los Angeles area schools, with an emphasis on diversity. (See related story on page 7.)

Oxygen Network
The Mount was featured briefly on a TV show on the Oxygen Network called "Her Domain." As part of its coverage of education and careers for women, the segment included President Jacqueline Powers Doud,

along with faculty and several students, talking about the benefits of attending a women's college—and Mount St. Mary's in particular. The show aired multiple times during the month of May.

Several times a year, the Weekend College offers travel/study courses to Mount St. Mary's undergraduate and graduate students in exciting locals and destinations such as Asia, Europe, South America, Russia, and the Caribbean. Here, students share their favorite photos from their trips abroad.

Pictured (clockwise from top) is Lucy Valdez in front of the Angkor Wat Temple in Cambodia, Noreen Sullivan holding an orphan in the Dominican Republic, Laurel Venne '07M riding a camel in China, and Holli Hudson '07 posing by the Mekong Delta in Vietnam. ⚜

Chasing Memories

A biology professor takes students on a quest to better understand brain functioning and health.

BY JOANNA BANKS

Being a brain researcher—especially one specializing in learning and memory—makes Jennifer Chotiner and her work at the College a magnet for people's curiosity. Why, they ask, isn't their memory as sharp as it used to be? Why does their elderly mother get confused doing simple tasks? And why have they *never* been good at remembering names? Chotiner, an assistant professor and interim chair of Mount St. Mary's Biology Department, can answer all these questions and more, explaining how the brain physically creates new memories and connects thoughts with action.

PHOTO: RICK MENDOZA

BIO-RAD

PHOTO: GLENN GRATTY

Chotiner's research also has serious implications for understanding how learning and memory break down due to developmental problems, trauma, disease, and general aging. To teach her students about the innter workings of the brain, she uses both classroom discussion and lab experiments. So inspired, her students talk excitedly of the prospect that their lab work may someday help the medical community learn how to repair memory loss or reduce the trauma of spinal cord injuries.

A Networking Feat

Chotiner's area of expertise is learning and memory pathways within the brain. These pathways are created by synapses that form connections between and within neurons, the basic building blocks of the brain.

Specifically, Chotiner examines how genetic material is converted into proteins that are used to build more and better connections in the brain. When these connections are effectively combined into a network, it allows the brain to recognize, say, the color red because a certain set of neurons have banded together to decode the particular visual stimulation of "red."

When you try to learn something through practice and repetition, she explains, you're actually training your neurons to communicate better. "When you learn or remember something—or generally adapt to your world—there is a change in your nervous system of how the neurons are communicating with one another," Chotiner says in her Chalon Campus lab, examining proteins from mouse brain tissue using a high-powered imaging system. "When babies are learning to walk, for example, eventually the pathways in their brains that are involved in a smooth gait are strengthened, and the other pathways which they don't need [to walk well] are being toned down."

Later in life, Chotiner says, the most easily solidified and readily accessible memories are the ones based on highly emotional events. Many Americans remember with chilling detail what they did on 9/11, while other activities on the days before and after are basically forgotten, she says. Likewise, it's easy to pull from memory the flavors and texture of mom's green bean casserole but to forget what was for lunch just yesterday.

"There are so many steps involved in storing and accessing memories, it's amazing we're able to remember anything," Chotiner says. "But over time, as we age, a slow degradation of general function takes place."

In fact, outside of developmental disabilities or trauma brought on by accidents, human aging is the No. 1 factor in dulling brain power, says Chotiner, who spent three years studying ways to repair memory loss as a postdoctoral fellow at the Reeve-Irvine Research Center at the University of California, Irvine. "As time goes on, a huge number of things happen, including the build-up of harmful chemicals in the brain called free radicals. Your DNA also starts to shrink," she says. "As you get older, you're not building [as many] synapses, and the neurons are dying."

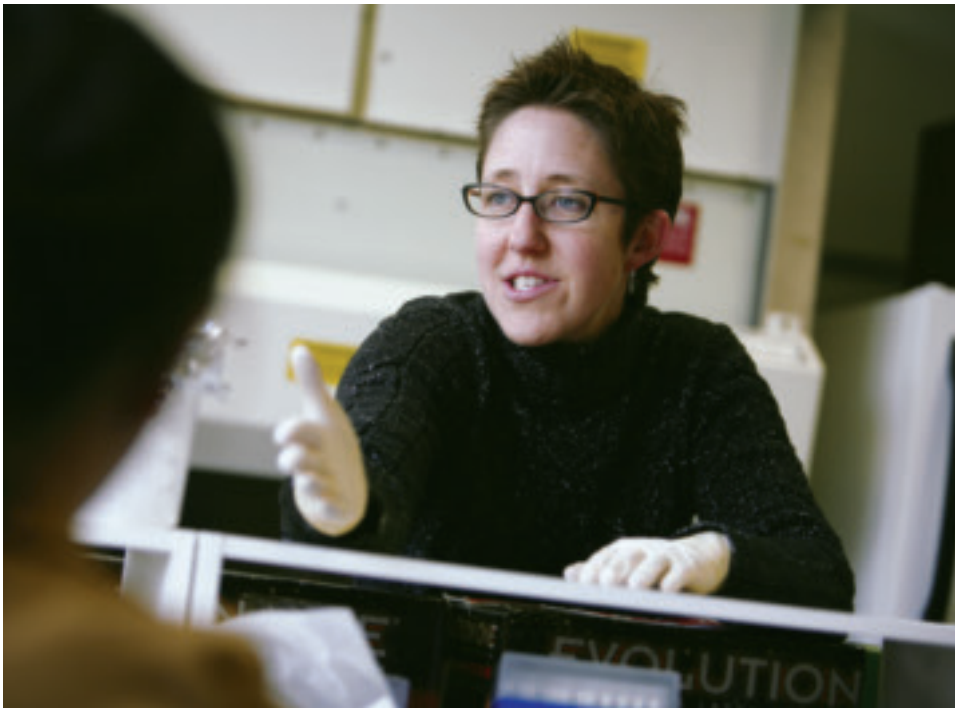


PHOTO: GLENN CRATTY

Dissecting Memories

To better understand all these processes, Chotiner and about 10 students meet several hours a week in the lab to examine how—and why—neural connections are strengthened. Their work concentrates on a part of the brain called the hippocampus, a horseshoe-shaped sheet of neurons located in the temporal lobes. It is the area of the brain where scientists believe memories are stored, although long-term memories, such as those tied to extremely emotional events or those deemed important enough to hold on to, are also stored in the cortex or outer layer of the brain for safe keeping.

To study actual brain connections in the lab, students use a technique called western immunoblotting—a process where proteins are examined with a machine that takes chemical-luminescent pictures. In successful experiments, students can trace brain pathways by looking at changes in protein to see whether the brain's genetic material is strengthened or protected at "active" synapses.

The findings from this research will be presented in November 2007 at the Society for Neuroscience conference in San Diego. Chotiner and her students also will present findings from a second project looking at whether the presence of different proteins varies based on lab

Brain Care 101

Want to keep your brain sharp—no matter what your age? Then heed the advice of Jennifer Chotiner, an assistant professor and interim chair of Mount St. Mary's Biology Department, who has a few suggestions on how to reinforce your brain's synaptic connections.

"The brain goes by the principle 'use or lose it,'" she warns, "so if you're not using it, you'll lose it."

- **Keep playing games:** Keep your brain active by engaging in thought-provoking activities, such as reading and, yes, those ever-challenging crossword puzzles. Even just gardening, she says, will help keep your brain cells firing.
- **Exercise your body:** Physical activity does more than build muscles in your arms and legs. Moving your body is a great way to build your brain power too because it is your brain that has to work to control your body.
- **Eat a balanced diet:** "Stay away from diets that limit your intake of certain foods," Chotiner advises. "You need a well-balanced diet of vitamins and minerals." Antioxidants, such as blueberries, asparagus, and green, leafy vegetables, are particularly good for your brain. "These foods are really high in antioxidants that destroy the build-up of toxic chemicals which can destroy your cellular structure."
- **Drink plenty of water:** "If you don't drink enough water, your body tells you there is something wrong and gives you the headache." It is your brain's way, she says, of letting you know it's becoming dehydrated—and then making you do something about it. "You think, 'Oh, I'm having a headache… maybe I need to drink more water…'"

"Remember, your brain is always on. Your neural system is still working while you're asleep, and that's why information oftencomes to us in the middle of the night. You've been thinking about a problem all along." —Assistant Professor Jennifer Chotiner

experiments or because of how the tissue is handled.

Having this kind of hands-on lab time is a hallmark of the Mount's science programs, which team students and professors for real, results-based research.

"It's exciting knowing that researching such a small part of the brain can bring about such huge results," says Tiffany McGrew '07, a biology major with a pre-med emphasis who worked in Chotiner's lab for two years. "Our research can have results for how Alzheimer's and amnesia are treated—or any type of head injury that has to do with memory." Last year, McGrew presented a project analyzing how memories are made at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. She also presented research at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research.

Being involved in research projects and conferences at the undergraduate level is a wonderful opportunity for students, Chotiner notes. Such exposure is especially valuable because research into memory and learning is constantly evolving.

Meaningful Discoveries

For Chotiner, both teaching and research reap rewards. "On the small scale is the everyday excitement and momentum that is generated by doing experiments," she says. "The largest successes are twofold: When the results all come together to make an exciting story that can be, and is, published; and when I've hooked a student enough to become excited and dedicated to the point where she wants to continue on her own, with her own ideas and questions." ⚜

Equipping the Lab

Mount St. Mary's is keeping its neurological science research on the leading edge through funding from the College's $45 million *Invest in the Mount* campaign.

With help from The Kresge Foundation, the Mount is constructing the new Neurological Plasticity and Aging Lab for research being conducted by Jennifer Chotiner, an assistant professor and interim chair of Mount St. Mary's Biology Department.

Thanks to The Seaver Institute, the College purchased and installed a chemiDocXRS imaging system for the research. The machine enables researchers to visualize the florescence of labeled antibodies which bind to protein in brain tissue.

The College also purchased a sliding microtome used to thinly slice frozen brain tissue from mice that is then mounted onto microscope slides for lab research. Up next on the shopping list is at least one high-powered microscope.

The gala dinner, dance, and auction will celebrate 55 years of nursing excellence and honor philanthropist and former LA Mayor Richard Riordan, a supporter of nursing education and the Mount.

There are many ways you can support this exciting fundraising gala:

☐ Individual Ticket	$250
☐ Single Table (10 seats)	$2,500
☐ Sponsorships*	
Platinum Title Sponsor	$25,000
Gold Sponsor	$10,000
Silver Sponsor	$5,000
Bronze Sponsor	$3,000

**Sponsorship packages include numerous benefits.*

☐ Tribute Journal (deadline August 31):	
Half Gold Page	$2,500
Half Silver Page	$1,500
Half Bronze Page	$1,000
Quarter Page	$500
Special Listing	$100
Student Listing	$50

Ready to get your ticket or become a sponsor?
Have an item or service you can donate to the live or silent auctions?
Contact Heather Schraeder, director of special events, at 213.477.2761 or hschrader@msmc.la.edu.

All proceeds will benefit nursing scholarships at the Mount.

A CHAL

PHOTOS: RICK MENDOZA

LENGE TO LEAD

AT THE MOUNT, STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO FIND THEIR OWN, UNIQUE WAYS TO BE LEADERS.

BY SARAH MOORE

Building leadership skills is a core value of Mount St. Mary's College. It is at the heart of the institution's mission statement—and is front and center in the first goal of the College's 2007-2012 Strategic Plan.

One way the College helps develop future leaders is through the Women's Leadership Program, a long-established component of a Mount education.

A NEW VISION

Nurturing leaders is a campus-wide endeavor. To that end, each year a small group of incoming freshman is chosen by the Women's Leadership Program to be leadership scholars. These students receive a scholarship, take a specialized leadership course, and organize community service projects.

And according to Rosalyn Kempf, program director, the work starts Day One. "On the first day of orientation, I tell students 'You are here because you are a leader,'" she says. "Students don't have to be a leader just by being the president of a club. I want these young women to expand their vision of themselves."

As she explains, the College's leadership program is designed to help them develop their potential in many areas, giving them a wide variety of new skills and experiences, and allowing them to see themselves as leaders. "I emphasize that no matter what area they are in—nursing, psychology or something else—they can be a leader in that field," Kempf says. "We give them opportunities to explore and challenge themselves so that when they are out in the world, they know they can make a contribution."

The program also focuses on different aspects of leadership depending on the scholars' class year. "With freshman and sophomores we emphasize personal and team leadership," she reports. "Then when students reach their junior and senior years, we want them to apply what they know by taking a position on campus or in the community.

Leticia Ortiz '08

A LEADER AMONG MANY

All of her life, Leticia Ortiz, has been a part of other people's service projects—practically from the day she was born. "My older siblings were really involved in community service, and they would bring me along to their events such as car washes and beach clean-ups," says the junior leadership scholar.

After two years in the scholar program, Ortiz planned her own way to give back to her community. With the help of the Mount's Women's Leadership Program, in 2006 she developed the Chiquitos Learning Arts Project to expose children to the arts. Over the course of seven weeks, Ortiz taught Latin music and dancing to preschoolers in her hometown of Ojai, Calif.

The community was so impressed with the Chiquitos Project, that the Ojai Performing Arts Theater Academy became a sponsor and asked Ortiz to teach a special workshop for children ages 4-7 that the whole community could attend. To help with this event, she then recruited high school students from her alma mater as well as another Mount leadership scholar.

"Before I came to the Mount, I thought leadership meant that one person takes the lead, and I tried to be that person," Ortiz says. "At MSMC, we're taught that leadership is based on communication and facilitating the thoughts and ideas of others. Having others excited about my project and wanting to get involved allowed everyone to become a leader."

Ortiz planned to continue the project this summer with older children. "I want to do something in my community, and I am always motivated by everyone in the Women's Leadership Program. They help in any way they can, even if it is just encouragement."

This sense of support and camaraderie has meant a lot to her, Ortiz says. "I was excited to be a leadership scholar because it meant that I had a group of people to relate to when I entered the Mount," she says. "Knowing that I was already a part of something was empowering. I knew that I would have a lot of opportunities through the Women's Leadership Program."

FROM CLASSROOM TO WORLD

"I had been to city council meetings in Sun Valley, my hometown, but I wanted to learn about government on the national level," says Christina Sundermeier, a senior scholar in 2006-07. To challenge herself, Sundermeier applied to the Public Leadership Education Network's (PLEN) Women and Congress Seminar through the Women's Leadership Program. The resulting trip was an experience she will never forget.

For nearly two decades, the Women's Leadership Program has been sending young women with a particular interest in U.S. policy to Washington, D.C., as part of PLEN. And each year, Mount students join peers from 16 other women's colleges across the country to meet with congressional representatives and observe firsthand how the federal government operates.

As a psychology major, Sundermeier is fascinated by the components of social connections. Attending PLEN helped her understand relationships on a whole new level.

"The PLEN experience gave me insight into the benefits of networking," she says.

Christina Sundermeier '07

Kathrine Hernandez '08

Through the Women's Leadership Program, Sundermeier has also been involved in the Leadership Boot Camp (a day-long group challenge activity), taken a leading role in community service activities, and presented at numerous conferences.

"The Mount has given me a lot of opportunities to lead," she says. "I think you learn leadership skills by knowing a lot about who you are inside and then building on those skills as you go along in life. That makes someone a powerful leader.

"Because of my experience in the Women's Leadership Program," she adds, "I will leave the Mount with confidence and with skills in communication, facilitation, networking, and organization that will help me the rest of my life."

Recognizing her skills, her fellow classmates chose her to speak for their baccalaureate class at commencement. And as she graduated from the Mount in May 2007, Sundermeier already had a plan for that future in mind: pursuing a master's in theological studies at Loyola Marymount University in the fall.

FINDING HER VOICE

For Kathrine Hernandez, being a leadership scholar at the Mount gave her the opportunity to learn about other parts of the College.

"As a nursing major, my classes are straight sciences but I wanted to be more well rounded," Hernandez says. "And the leadership scholars are from all majors, so I learned a lot from them."

As a junior this past academic year, Hernandez was encouraged to use this knowledge for the benefit of the campus and chose to become an Admissions tour guide. In this volunteer position, Hernandez led prospective students and their families on guided tours of the Chalon Campus. "I love this school and sharing my experience with students," she says. "I chose the Mount because of its size, and I like to point out the advantages of a small campus."

Through the Women's Leadership Program, Hernandez has been empowered to find and use her own voice. "I learned in our leadership and women's studies course that I have a voice," she says. "And I look forward to using it."

And partly through her leadership work as a school ambassador, so will the young women entering the Mount right behind her. ⚜

Fletcher Jones Foundation Contributes to Doheny Parking Structure, Residence Hall

Mount St. Mary's received a $500,000 gift in April from The Fletcher Jones Foundation to help fund construction of a parking structure and residence hall on the College's downtown Doheny Campus.

This is the foundation's second gift to the *Invest in the Mount* campaign. The foundation first awarded money to the campaign in 2005, giving $500,000 to augment its already established endowed scholarship fund.

Other foundations have also supported the parking structure in the last two years, including the Fritz Burns Foundation, which awarded a $2.5 million grant toward the project, and the Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation, which contributed $1 million.

The new structure will have three levels of parking and will add an estimated 150 parking spaces to the campus.

A Walk to Remember

This fall, Mount St. Mary's College will dedicate the Adams Art Walk on the Doheny Campus. Located between Building 5 and the new parking facility, the walkway will include several works of art (shown right) as well as extensive landscaping. Made possible by the generosity of Trustee David Adams through the Adams Fund, the walkway is named for brothers Morgan Adams Jr. (David's father) and James (Peter) H. Adams II, who lived at 21 Chester Place in the 1920s with their parents, Morgan Adams and Aileen McCarthy.

UniHealth To Fund ADN-to-MSN Nurse Program

The UniHealth Foundation will award the Mount $518,939 to create an ADN-to-MSN Bridge Program. A response to California's nursing faculty shortage, this new program will accelerate the development of nurse educators by focusing on experienced RNs who have only achieved their associates degree (ADN). To accommodate the working adults who are most qualified for advanced study, the bridge program will consist of year-round evening and weekend classes, allowing ADN graduates to achieve their master's degrees in as little as three years. The program will include modified baccalaureate courses and will pay special attention to professional development issues to ensure a smooth transition from the field into teaching positions.

While strongly focused on the creation of nurse educators, the ADN-to-MSN Bridge Program will also allow students to choose from specialized tracks focused on leadership, clinical nurse specialist, and community health studies. All tracks share a set of core courses such as physical assessment, theoretical nurse models, and nursing issues that will qualify graduates to teach in higher education. All tracks will also cover standard protocols for master's level nursing and knowledge related to theoretical models, including the Roy Adaptation Model, the hallmark of Mount nurses.

The College will launch the program in the fall 2008.

2007 Senior Class Bids Farewell, Exceeds Class Gift Challenge

Beneath the Tiffany-glass domed ceiling of the Pompeian Room at the Doheny Mansion, members of the Class of 2007 gathered on April 27 at the Senior Farewell Dinner. Celebrating the culmination of student life at the Mount, the seniors shared memories and recounted all the many experiences they have had over the last four years.

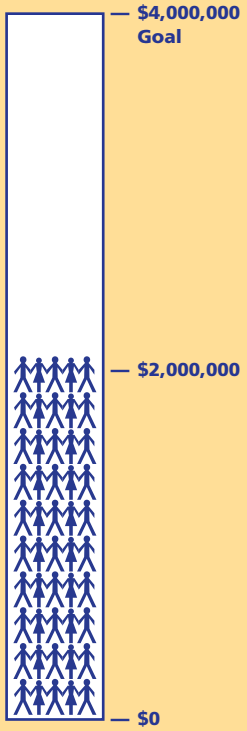
The Haiwaiian-themed event featured an array of speakers, starting with an official welcome to the Mount Alumnae Association by fellow alum board member Sharon Leahy '60. Helen Boutrous, assistant professor of political science, also offered the students some parting advice: "Enjoy life," she said. "Move forward, try new things, and be humble."

Senior Senator Virginia Guevara and her Athenian Committee capped off the event with the announcement that the Class of 2007 had raised more than $9,000 toward the Mount Fund's Athenian Club Challenge. According to committee members Marisol Delgadillo, Heather Lindquist, Mia Mitchell, and Vanessa Serrano, this total surpasses the previous senior class record—in part because of their appeals to give to the College and future students. As they noted,

- Annual tuition does not cover the full cost of a Mount education. Each year, a portion is subsidized through the generosity of alumnae donors.
- Every individual gift is counted in the alumnae participation total that is supplied to *U.S. News and World Report*, which enhances the Mount's national ranking and increases the value of a Mount degree in the marketplace.
- Every single dollar given as part of the Athenian Club Challenge will be matched "3 to 1" by an anonymous donor—which means the Class of 2007's gift of $9,000 will bring an additional $27,000 to the College.

As the graduating seniors said themselves, what better way to commemorate their College experience than by giving back time and financial resources?

You, too, can help meet the Mount Fund's Athenian Club Challenge—a 3-to-1 challenge for graduates of the last decade. Go to www.msmcalums.la.edu/athenianclub or contact Melissa Salazar, director of annual giving, at 213.477.2537.



Be Counted

At press time, Mount alumnae and friends had donated more than half of the $4 million fundraising goal set by The Kresge Foundation's recent challenge grant to the College. This "all or nothing" grant calls upon everyone in the Mount community to participate and give what they can to help raise $4 million by June 30, 2008, at which point the foundation will award the College another $1 million.

The Mount needs alumnae and friends to donate to the Mount before June 30, 2008, to meet the $1 million challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation. To give now, contact Melissa Salazar, director of annual giving, at 213.477.2537 or go to www.msmcalums.la.edu/mountfund.

alum community

welcome

By now, you will have received your Alumnae Survey. Your prompt response is greatly appreciated. We want to celebrate your accomplishments, showcase alum achievements for prospective students, assess our academic programs, and make connections between alums new and old. Questions? Contact Jeanne Redell Ruiz '63, director of alumnae relations, at jruiz@msmc.la.edu or call 213.477.2769. You can also find the survey online at www.msmcalums.la.edu/survey.

The Golden Grads of 1957 celebrate at the Baccalaureate Mass, May 2007.

class notes

'51

Evelyn Kraemer Francuz and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2006.

Gerry Biggs McGrath celebrated 52 years as choir director at her parish, has 18 grandchildren, recently welcomed twin great-grandsons on her 75th birthday—and still finds time to remain active in Kappa Gamma Pi, the national graduate honors society of Catholic colleges.

'52

Eileen Micklish Hempfling writes that her only claim to fame on Google is that she is listed in the Mount's Honor Roll of Donors. She thinks that is a good way to be remembered.

'57

Barbara Terpening McGourty toured Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil with her husband in fall 2006.

'59

Marilyn Ball Carvin was a representative to the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Conference in Albuquerque, N.M. She continues to tutor for the World Literacy Crusade in Compton and encourages others to get CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training.

'61

Mary Collins Pizzorno and her husband frequently visit their new granddaughter in Northville, Miss.

'63

Marion Menges Crowe's book, *Aiming at Heaven, Getting the Earth: The English Catholic Novel Today*, was published in May by Lexington Books.

Peggy Carr Friese recently retired from St.Vincent Medical Center after 15 years as a pastoral associate in the chaplain office, working with oncology and transplant patients. She currently has 17 grandchildren.

Judith Merino Light has taken eight to 12 international trips a year during the last five years. One highlight was holding a one-year-old panda in Chendu, China.

'65

Nancy Reiley Morgan passed the two tests for state licensure to become a marriage and family therapist last December.

'66

Anne Splingaerd Megowan has finished her manuscript, *The Belgian Mandarin*, after 13 years. The book is about the life of her great-grandfather, Paul Splingaerd, an orphan who went to China with Belgian missionaries in 1865 and later became a top-ranking mandarin.

'67

Linda Murrow is employed as a public school nurse working with severely emotionally disabled students, grades K-12.

Mary Lou Starr Vanderlip retired from LAUSD last June after teaching and working in the district office for 39 years. She continues to work as a consultant with the Elementary Reading Program. She is also the liturgy coordinator at St. John Eudes Church in Chatsworth, Calif.

'68

Donna Faker and her husband, Tom, both retired in 2003. She enjoys caring for her granddaughter part time and participating in Habitat for Humanity building projects.

Barbara Gutierrez is the assistant superintendent of LAUSD's Early Childhood Education Division. She leads staff and partners to provide early education programs for 31,000 preschoolers from infants to 4 years of age.

Kathy Villar Jacinto is getting used to the empty nest after raising four children. Being assistant principal at Chatsworth Park Elementary School does help fill up her time, but her most enjoyable role is that of first-time grandma!

Mary MacDonald Koenig enjoyed traveling to Scandinavia and singing in cathedral churches in Sweden and Denmark in summer 2006.

Kathy Macek took early retirement in July 2006 from her job at the Getty Research Institute. In late August, she began a master of divinity degree at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, Calif. Upon completion, she hopes to be ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church.

Marie Van Blaricom Maitrepierre and her husband are finally retiring to southwestern France, near Bordeaux, after 17 years in Bergen County, N.J.

'69

Maureen Peverada Chris continues to teach second grade in Orange County and spends time golfing at her second home in Palm Desert, Calif. She has two grandchildren and another on the way. She and her husband celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary in July.

Kathleen Minnick Rossi is a grandmother of two boys.

'70

Linda Leggett Oldenkamp and her husband cruised through the Panama Canal last May and are now spending time with their first grandchild. She is currently an ESL tutor at a junior high school.

'72

Mary Kathryn Durando is a Staff Nurse IV and has been a mainstay of the Stanford University Medical Center Emergency Room for the past 28 years. She was recently interviewed by the *Palo Alto Daily News* about changes she has seen in emergency room care.

'74

Kristine Kosak, after being seriously ill for five years, recently started law school at Ventura College of Law.

Kristine Klumph Bounds and her husband are excited about becoming grandparents. She works as a nurse in the Emergency Department at Encino Hospital.

Janet Fisher Petersen completed her RN refresher course at Washington State University and accepted a job at Providence Hospice of Seattle.

'75

Alice Gardello took a trip to New England and eastern Canada in summer 2006.

'76

Ellen Weisenberg Blackstock is now an RN case manager for Huntington Hospital Senior Care Network, providing services in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys to seniors on Medi-Cal. She is part of a group of Mount nurses (**Mary Barish Byers**, **Nancy Izzo Cecconi**, **Arlene Dominguez Genzel**, **Virginia Maes Healey**, **Faith Croghan Jones**, **Maureen McCoy Sanders**, **Debbie Wardein Schilens**, **Kathleen McCoy Seymour**, and **Liza Pighin Wallace**) who have stayed in touch for almost 30 years.

Susan Odegaard-Turner is working as the statewide nursing executive for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. She oversees 7,500 healthcare and nursing staff as part of the team appointed by the federal court to manage healthcare operations.

'78

Cynthia Przytula started working with Sierra Nevada Job Corps in 2006 and was recently promoted to Learning Resource Center coordinator.

Karen Ward retired after six years on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Wine Society. She has completed the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program and is now a certified master gardener.

'80

Stacy Connors continues to work as a nurse anesthetist and has a Cabernet vineyard in Paso Robles, Calif., with her husband, a retired physician.

Gina Poli Hsiung and her husband celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in May, and June marks her 23rd year at the CSUN library where she is the cataloguing manager.

'82

Lisa Kimble Edmonston, a former Emmy-winning television news reporter, is a writer for *Bakersfield Life Magazine*. She hopes to return to television on a limited basis soon.

'84

Suzanne Weber Hoffman has been with Boeing for 21 years and was recently promoted to executive director for major subcontracts for the C17 program in Long Beach, Calif.

'86

Sylvie Raoux is currently working as a language arts teacher at a middle school in San Bernardino, Calif.

'88

Brother Kevin Berntson was ordained an interfaith minister in 2005 and works at Holy Cross Ecumenical Institute of the Arts, a peace and justice secondary education program.

Caryn Ruiz Nadeau was recently named assistant vice president in the corporate training and development department of Union Bank of California.

'89

Rose Jacobs-Meltzer is now on the board of Bethune Theatredanse—Infinite Dreams and of New Directions.

Faith Croghan Jones '76 (left) and Ellen Weisenberg Blackstock '76 at Homecoming 2006

Reunion Alert — Save the Date!

Who: Reunions this year are for the Classes of 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002 with special attention to the Silver Anniversary Class of 1982 which is celebrating its 25th anniversary!

When: Reunions will be celebrated at Homecoming on Saturday, October 13, 2007, at the Chalon Campus.

Volunteer Opportunity: Join your Class Reunion Committee and encourage your classmates to attend. To help make your reunion a smashing success, contact Jeanne Ruiz, director of alumnae relations, at 213.477.2769 or jruiz@msmc.la.edu.

'90

Diana Gleason Blackwell has moved to Auckland with her New Zealand-born husband and two children.

Jane France Cook is chief utilization manager of Tricare Asia in Seoul, South Korea.

Leslie Cunnigham was the MC for the Greenlining Institute's 14th Annual Economic Summit in April 2007. The summit brought together corporate and community organizations to help low-income and minority communities through philanthropic activities.

Valerie Krause is teaching kindergarten at Walt Disney School in Anaheim, Calif.

Lisa Marie Tapia recently became an administrative law judge for the Illinois Commerce Commission, presiding over matters involving deregulation of public services.

'91

Christianne Bishop received her M.D. from Creighton University in 1998 and is completing a second residency in family medicine. She also plans to complete a fellowship in geriatrics.

Tracy Oatis is currently working as a special education nurse in a local LASUD district and plans to become a secondary school nurse.

Cathy Sanchez-Latin is currently working at USC's University Hospital as the liver transplant social worker.

Leticia Rodriguez-Davis is teaching fifth grade in Chandler, Ariz. She and her husband just returned from a trip to Barcelona, Spain.

'92

David Wright is married, has three boys, and is living in Concord, Calif., where he teaches music for the Mt. Diablo Unified School District.

Theresa Yugar recently received a doctoral grant of $16,000 from the Hispanic Theological Initiative located in Princeton, N.J. She is currently finishing her first year of doctoral work at Claremont Graduate University. This grant is given to individuals committed to the Hispanic community in both pastoral ministries and education.

'94

Evelyn Cernadas Card was recently named one of 2007's 20 Noteworthy Women by *Connecticut Business Times* magazine. As the media spokesperson for Gateway Community College, she leads a centralized public relations division that serves the entire college.

Joy Di Palma's marketing company, SWIFT Enterprises, has recently produced several award-winning feature film and television campaigns. She also started a personal training business called Trainer Joy.

'95

Melanie S. Cross has received certification as an oncology and advanced medical-surgical nurse. She is also clinical director of health promotion for Special Olympics International.

'96

Alejandra Ceja is now the senior budget and appropriations advisor to Chairman George Miller with the House Committee on Education and Labor, after working for seven years in the White House Office of Management and Budgets.

Lynne Dastous-Morse has just finished covering the role of Micaela in *Carmen* and Nedda in *I Pagliacci* for the Virginia Opera.

Maria Garcia was promoted to HR manager at Urban Science in Long Beach, Calif.

Valerie Kenna has a new position as master scheduler with Natural Alternatives International.

Jack Knight was recently appointed to the Board of Catholic Charities CYO for the Archdiocese of San Francisco. In June, he left the board of Westside Community Services, having served as treasurer and president.

'97

Tasha Owens Houston is now a real estate agent, certified appraiser, and mobile notary/loan signing agent. She lives in Long Beach, Calif., with her husband and 3-year-old son.

Rachel Belanger Keller keeps busy as a mother of two boys and as a Clinical Nurse III at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center where she has worked for 10 years. She credits her outstanding nursing education at the Mount with the wonderful career choices she has been afforded.

Kathryn Lake has just been accepted into a nurse practitioner master's program at Clemson University in South Carolina.

'98

Noemi Urgiles is currently the acting supervisor with the Specialized Foster Care Program in Los Angeles County. She also started a foundation for children in Peru.

'99

Varsana Staszak interned during summer 2004 at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies and then studied for a year at Bhaktivedanta College in Belgium. She met her future husband in Belgium and was married in Prague in 2006. They spent last year in Bordeaux, France, and helped open an Indian cultural center and restaurant. They are expecting their first baby in October and plan to divide their time between Europe and Southern California.

Tenney Thomas has been living and working in Colorado for the past three years as a public health nurse/home visitor at Boulder County Nurse-Family Partnership, working with first-time moms. She has a 4-year-old son and plans to move to France next year.

Vicky Yamamoto started a doctoral program last fall at the Keck School of Medicine at USC in the Institute for Stem Cell, Regenerative Medicine, and Biochemistry. She expects to graduate in 2010.

'00

Kara Barnett, a mother of two, works as a director at a start-up clinic called Mission Valley Physical Therapy and Hand Center, which focuses on orthopedics, aquatics, and pain management.

Erin Reagan Emshwiller and her husband just welcomed their second daughter. After six years in the clinical research field, she is a stay-at-home mom and lives in the suburbs of Chicago.

Adrianna Salazar started a new job last September as a high school Spanish teacher at Summit View School, which serves students with special needs, primarily learning disabilities, autism, and Asperger's syndrome. She is also working on her special education credential through CSUN.

'01

Ursula Gaines is a stay-at-home mom with 10-month-old triplets, two girls and a boy. She also has a two-year-old daughter. With the 700 diapers a month, she has lots of full-time help and family support.

The mellow tones of the Amber Weekes Trio set the mood at the 5th Annual Alum Wine Tasting. Vocalist Shelli Amber Weekes (left) is a 1984 Mount alumna.

Joan Fletcher Valdez moved to Yucaipa, Calif., and is teaching middle school in Palm Springs, Calif.

'02

Meghan Moore has been teaching second grade at a Catholic elementary school in San Diego for the past five years and next year will teach fifth grade at the same school.

Melissa Pineda has started a general surgery internship at UCSF.

Natalie Priester is teaching English and coaching volleyball at San Pasqual Academy in Escondido, Calif. The academy is a residential high school for foster youth and is part of San Diego's Juvenile Court and Community Schools District.

Julianne Tran is enrolled in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at CSULB.

'03

Vanessa Sevilla Castellon has been teaching kindergarten for the past four years in the Perris Elementary School District.

Evelyn E. Espinoza is currently a registered psychological assistant at Healing Through Play and La Familia. She will begin working at Children's

Institute International as a registered psychologist to obtain the hours for licensure.

Geovanna Henao is completing her doctorate in organizational consulting from Phillips Graduate Institute.

Delores Lucero Lara gave birth to daughter, Angelina Frances, in October. Angela was born at 29 weeks, weighing 2 lbs 13 oz. but is now doing fine.

Lovelyn Marquez-Prueher had her memoir, "A Journey Towards Understanding and Acceptance," published by AuthorHouse in *The WriteStuff Writers' "Golden Journey": A Collection of Prize Winning Short Stories 2006*.

Stephanie Sampson Nocita is the business relationship manager for California Business Banking. She was ranked the No. 1 Business Relationship Manager in California and was presented with the Wells Fargo National Sales and Service Award in Honolulu in May 2006.

Elsa Pazmino recently became engaged at the top of the Eiffel Tower.

'04

April Aguirre has been accepted to New York University's Journalism Program for a master's of arts in journalism-magazine writing.

Dior Kuykendall Hildebrand, a public health nurse community liaison, spoke at the American Planning Associates National Conference in Philadelphia about the correlation between the built environment (land use) and community health.

Sarah E. Moe started a new job as manager of political affairs and federal relations at Property Casualty Insurers Association of America in Washington, D.C.

'05

Selma Cuya is working as a research associate at City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, Calif.

Victoria Ortiz is a faculty member of the University of Phoenix's College of Nursing and Human Services.

'06

Francis Jacobo has been accepted into the Columbia University master's program in broadcast journalism.

two by two

The Alumnae Association extends best wishes to the following alums and their spouses:

'70 Marcia Broaddus Niessen and Michael Greiten
'00 Florentina Rosales and Cesar Echevarria
'02 Julianne Tran and David Trinh
'03 Vanessa Sevilla and Michael Castellon
'05 Suly Garcia and Yasser Abdalla

by-lines

The Alumnae Association extends congratulations to the following alums and their spouses on the birth of their children:

'88 Jon Louis to Lorinda Guzman Gomes, 2nd child, 1st son
'92 Jason Scott to Laura Leingang Freeman, 3rd child, 3rd son
'99 Clarissa Marie to Yolanda Leal Limon, 3rd child, 3rd daughter
'99 Robert Roman to Angela Tello Saldana, 2nd child, 1st son
'00 Madeline Luz to Regina Bills-Dacong, 2nd child
'00 Ana Elizabeth to Erin Reagan Emshwiller, 2nd child, 2nd daughter
'00 Felicity "Jeanna" Bethany Aquino to Aimee Jade Sison, 3rd child, 1st daughter
'01 Triplets Claire, Cathy, and Alexander, to Ursula Gaines, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th children, 2nd and 3rd daughters and 1st son
'01 Teresa Yvonne "TY" to Marisa Reyes Lozano
'03 Angelina Frances to Delores Lucero Lara, 2nd child, 2nd daughter
'03 Sienna and Olivia, twins, to Adrianna Barragan Viera, 3rd and 4th children, 1st and 2nd daughters
'04 Emanuel Angel to Maria Rodriguez Guerrero, 1st child

requiescant

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

'40 Margaret McConnell Rendler
'44 Mildred Barry Creamer
'45 Onriette Lebrun King
'48 son of Mary Jane McGrath Craycroft
'50 Frances Hills Sorrentino
'54 husband of Milania Austin Henley
'55 husband of Rosemary Brunet Giacomi
'56 Ying Kwan Lew
'57 Nora Martin Hepp
'57 Francine Gazvoda McDonough
'58 mother of Fae Falvo
'61 Mary Weber Succuro
'62 husband of Sue Donovan Manzo
'63 father of Nance Slattery
'64 brother of Mary Couture Killmond

'65 mother of Carrie Ann Skirlick Blackaller
'66 husband of Erica Mauz Dowd
'66 Mary Ellen Gallagher
'69 mother of Maureen Peverada Chris
'73 father of Sr. Michelle Clines, OCD
'74 Marta Vazquez
'76 husband of Christina Corella Cirelle
'81 Karyn Kroll Schmitz
'83 Jann Kraus
'97 mother of Connie Carlson
'05 aunt of Agasia Lanier

They will be remembered in the Masses, prayers, and good works of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

advanced degrees

The Alumnae Association congratulates the following alums on their successful pursuit of intellectual achievement:

'67 Linda Robson Murrow, MS in education with an emphasis on counseling, human relations, Northern Arizona University, December 2003
'84 Ruth Brown Sanborn, MA in religious studies, MSMC, May 2007
'90 Valerie Kraus, MS in special education, MSMC, May 2004
'91 Cathy Sanchez-Latin, MSW, University of Southern California, 2006
'92 David Wright, MA in music, California State University, East Bay, June 2003
'94 Karen Carbajal, MS in gerontology, University of La Verne, March 2007
'95 Claudia Valencia Ortiz, MS in reading, Walden University, April 2005
'98 Giovanna Brasfield, EdD and DPA, University of La Verne, May 2007
'98 Regina Pontes, MBA, New York Institute of Technology
'98 Cristina Solis, MA in education, Columbia University, October 2006
'98 Noemi Urgiles, PsyD in clinical psychology, California School of Professional Psychologists, May 2003
'99 Melissa Mendiola, MA in international and multicultural literature for children and adolescents, University of San Francisco, December 2006
'00 Brigette Lizarraras, MBA, University of Phoenix, 2006
'01 Sharina Shields, JD, Whittier Law School, 2004
'02 Melissa Pineda, MD, Eastern Virginia Medical School, May 2007
'02 Eneyda Reynoso, MA in clinical psychology, Pepperdine University, May 2007
'03 Geovanna Henao, MA in psychology, Pepperdine University, 2005
'03 Evelyn E. Espinoza, MA & PsyD in clinical psychology, California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University, December 2005
'03 Veronica Leon, MEd in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in bilingual education, University of Maryland, College Park, May 2007
'04 Sarah Moe, MA in international commerce and policy, George Mason University, School of Public Policy, 2007
'05 Louinn Marie Lota, MA in secondary education, Loyola Marymount University, May 2007

NOTE: We are proud of all of our alums and are happy to showcase your academic achievements. Please let us know when you receive an advanced degree and include the date and the name of the institution granting the degree. In order to keep this feature current, please do not go back any further than four years or send information that has already appeared in Class Notes.

Stay on the Cutting Edge
Login to Mount AlumLine to:
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To login, go to: www.msmcalums.la.edu; you will need your Alum ID#. You can find it directly above your name on the address panel of this magazine.

Email Update
Make sure we have your current email address, so we can stay in touch.

Alumnae Legacy Grant
Alum offspring are entitled to a $1,000 grant, renewable every year upon enrolling at MSMC. It's an alumnae perk. To apply, contact Alumnae Relations.

Alum Privilege Card
You need this card to use the Mount fitness centers or libraries. Login to AlumLine (web address above) and click on Alum Privilege Card on the left-hand navigation bar.

Questions?
Call Alumnae Relations at 213.477.2767.

A Time for Peace

By Mary Erschoen Morris '62

This year marks the 45th anniversary of my graduation from the Mount. I have traveled a long way from the 21-year-old student who, not having the foggiest idea of what she wanted to do with her life, went to graduate school as a refuge. After teaching (badly) at a diocesan high school and working for a year as a social worker (even worse), I eventually stumbled into a job that became a career at the RAND Corporation.

I had the opportunity to work with world-class researchers and scholars at RAND. Eventually, I got an opportunity to work on a research project that led to a whole new world: I discovered the Middle East, with its complex history and stunning contrasts, from the squalor of refugee camps in the West Bank to the pristine coastline of Oman. I learned a lot at the Mount in Dr. Oard's history classes (I think I still hold the record for most classes taken from him) as well as from Dr. Delahanty's political science classes. Neither of them focused on the Middle East, but they taught me how to think about things, how to separate out emotion from facts, how to put events into context, how to weigh consequences of actions. When it comes to the Middle East, assessing the consequences is critical.

I left RAND several years ago, and I now work at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council as vice president and director of programs. My primary interest is still the Middle East, and I continue to lecture and write about the place that fascinates me more than anywhere else. I continue to travel to the Middle East as often as I can, to see old friends, to make new ones, to renew my contact with a place that I love.

What is happening now in the Middle East is profoundly disturbing, to me and to others who see the great potential of the region consumed by a cycle of endless violence. From Palestine to Tehran, from Kabul to Sana'a, the Middle East is in turmoil, beset with unresolved fundamental problems such as resource scarcities, unemployment, overpopulation, corruption, and inadequate governments—problems long ignored and now compounded by foreign occupation and the ethnic and religious divisions that have been stirred to life and whipped to a frenzy. All of this contributes to skewed perspectives of the Middle East and a cycle of questionable political decisions that have had disastrous results.

About 20 years ago, while traveling in Jordan, I was invited into a Bedouin tent for tea. The women in the tent, tattooed and veiled, did not speak English, nor was my Arabic very good. But we spoke to each other with gestures and smiles, and we left each other richer for the experience. I believe we can still talk to each other, Americans and Arabs, Christians, Jews, and Muslims, in a desert tent or across a conference table. But I also feel a sense of urgency, because time, even in this ancient and timeless land, may finally be running out. ⚜

Mary Erschoen Morris '62 is the vice president and director of programs at Los Angeles World Affairs Council. Pictured above, Morris visits the Rub'al Khali (the Empty Quarter) in the United Arab Emirates on a recent trip to the Emirates and Oman.

calendar

JOIN US...

on September 29, for "A Big Band Evening Under the Stars!" Hosted by the College and its Regents Council, this event will celebrate 55 years of MSMC nursing excellence and raise money for nursing scholarships. For more information, see the story on page 3 and the ad on page 17. You can also contact Heather Schraeder, director of special events, at 213.477.2761 or hschraeder@msmc.la.edu.

on October 13, to celebrate "Mount Connections—Then and Now," at Homecoming. This year's event will include class reunions, Founders Day Mass, tours of new and upgraded Chalon Campus facilities, and the presentation of the 2007 Outstanding Alumnae Awards and the first-ever Rising Star Award.

The following calendar represents only some of the events at Mount St. Mary's College. For more up-to-date listings, visit www.msmc.la.edu and click on "Calendars." For alumnae events, visit www.msmcalums.la.edu.

Mary Chapel, Chalon Campus

october

12 Alumnae Concert, Doheny Mansion, 310.954.4265
13 Homecoming, Alumnae Relations, 213.477.2767
13 Doheny Mansion Public Tours, 213.477.2962
14 Opening Reception for Artist Laura Hernandez, Art Department, 310.954.4361
20 "Spirituality and Justice" Seminar, Doheny Spirituality Center, 213.747.6508
27 Osiris Piano Trio, Doheny Mansion, Da Camera Society, 213.477.2929, www.dacamera.org
27 Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit and Lunch, Alumnae Relations, 213.477.2767

november

15 Spring Semester Application Deadline for Master's Programs, Graduate Admissions, 213.477.2800

december

1 Application Deadline for Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program (Fall 2008), 213.477.2800
7 Christmas Choral Concert, 310.954.4265
8 Spring Semester Application Deadline for Weekend College, 213.477.2866

1949

These students were among the first to enjoy a refreshing dip in the Chalon Campus pool, constructed in 1949.

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